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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,783	09/28/2001	Royce D. Jordan JR.	010554	3407

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EXAMINER

NAWAZ, ASAD M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/965,783

Applicant(s)

JORDAN, ROYCE D.

Examiner

Asad M Nawaz

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/28/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are presented for examination.
2. Acknowledgment is made of the information disclosure statement received on September 19th, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being taught by Thorne et al (US Patent No. 5,958,005) hereinafter referred to as Thorne.

As to claim 1, Thorne teaches an apparatus for sending a message to a wireless device over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising: a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including an expiration instruction and expiration information indicating a time after which the message is not to be delivered to the wireless device, for attempting to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network, and for carrying out the expiration instruction by deleting the message at the time indicated by the expiration information. (Abstract; Figs 4 and 4; col 3, lines 12-35; col 4 lines 62-67; col 8, lines 10-20)

Claim 14 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 2, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message. (Fig1; col 3, lines 12-35; col 9, lines 8-20 and 44 - 53)

As to claim 3, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 2, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message. (Fig1; col 3, lines 12-35; col 9, lines 8-20 and 44 - 53)

As to claim 4, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 3, wherein the gateway flags the message in the database with the expiration information and executes a protocol to determine when the flagged expiration information matches a time indicated by the gateway. (col 8, lines 28-42; col 9, lines 28-53; col 11, lines 20-26)

Claim 18 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 5, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway transmits the message to the external network at the time indicated by the expiration information. (col 4, lines 38-56; col 5, lines 54-67)

Claim 15 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 6, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expiration information indicates a length of time before the gateway carries out the expiration instruction. (col 6, lines 63-64; col 8, lines 10-20)

As to claim 7, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expiration information indicates a date and time for the gateway to carry out the expiration instruction. (col 6, lines 63-64; col 8, lines 10-20)

As to claim 8, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message is a text message.(col 10, lines 35-36)

As to claim 10, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expiration instruction and expiration information are in a header of the message.(col 8, lines 28-42)

Claim 17 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 11, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the external network is the Internet. (col 4, lines 38-56; col 5, lines 54-67)

Claim 20 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 13, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway attempts to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network at a predetermined time.(col 9, lines 27-36)

Claim 21 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 19, Thorne teaches the method of claim 14, further comprising determining whether the message has been delivered to the wireless device prior to deleting the message. (cols 7 and 8, lines 65-67 and 1-27; col 9, lines 27-36)

As to claim 22, Thorne teaches a method of sending a message to a user of a wireless device over a wireless network that maintains a mailbox for the user, the method comprising: sending a message, which includes an expiration instruction and expiration information indicating a time after which the message is not to be delivered to the wireless device, to the user's mailbox; flagging the message in the user's mailbox with the expiration information; attempting to deliver the message in the user's mailbox to the wireless device over the wireless network; comparing the flagged message with a time indicated by the wireless system; and deleting the message from the user's mailbox at the time indicated by the expiration information. .(Abstract; Figs 4 and 4; col 3, lines 12-35; col 4 lines 62-67; col 8, lines 10-20; col 8, lines 28-42; col 9, lines 28-53; col 11, lines 20-26)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorne et al (US Patent No. 5,958,005) as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Hung (US Patent No 6,722,143).

As to claim 9, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 8. However, Thorne does not explicitly indicate that the instructions are contained in the text message.

Hung teaches the management of text messages on wireless devices, such as pagers, over Internet communications. Furthermore, a communication terminal, upon receipt of a message, may parse the received message for specific instructions/keywords. (col 1, lines 13-56; col 2, line 45)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Hung into those of Thorne to make the system more manageable. The sheer number of messages a user may receive with the advent and progress of innovative technology may overwhelm them. Also, the sender's and the receiver's system may or may not be standardized/proprietary. Thus the content of the messages may take many forms. It would be advantageous to provide a method for uniformly managing these messages.(Hung: col 1, lines 13-24; col 2, lines 10-23)

Claim 16 is essentially the method for the above-mentioned claim and is thus rejected under similar rationale.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorne et al (US Patent No. 5,958,005) further in view of Official Notice.

As to claim 12, Thorne teaches the apparatus of claim 1. However, Thorne does not explicitly indicate the wireless device is a pager.

Official Notice is taken that It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a pager instead of the disclosed PC, laptop, palmtop, cellular phone, etc because all are able to receive text messages and similarly can typically run an application like the one taught by Thorne.

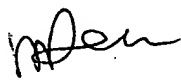
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AMN


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SUPPLEMENTARY PATENT EXAMINER